



OFFICE OF THE DEAN

UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES
F. EDWARD HÉBERT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
4301 JONES BRIDGE ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-4712
<http://www.usuhs.mil>



Dear Prospective USU Student:

You are applying to the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at an exciting time in its history! We are re-designing our curriculum with the theme of “Molecules to Military Medicine.” As a member of the class of 2015, you will work in a clinical setting early in your studies, while maintaining a strong emphasis on the basic science curriculum that is the underpinning of all medical education.

We are shifting from discipline-based courses to integrated, system-based units for learning science in the context of clinical problems. In fact, a primary goal of curricular re-design is to give students real clinical experiences with real responsibility for patients as early as possible in the curriculum. We are eager to share this new vision with our incoming students.

We produce graduates of the highest caliber: dedicated physicians with rigorous analytic skills and a working knowledge of basic sciences, who will have a unique role in the military health care system. USU School of Medicine fosters a physician corps which cares for soldiers, sailors, airmen, their families, and those who have retired from service using a flexible and creative approach to the challenges of patient care, and with a lifelong pursuit of the mastery of medicine.

The new model, while still maintaining its military blueprint, builds on previous strengths by forming a tighter link between the basic and clinical sciences throughout the four years. The curriculum will continue to be divided into three phases: pre-clerkship, clerkship and post-clerkship, but the content and timing of each phase meshes the basic sciences and the clinical sciences throughout the four years of study. Some details of the three phases of the new curriculum are as follows:

➤ **Pre-Clerkship Period (first 17 months)**

- This period will begin with a 2-month period of instruction that will emphasize fundamental principles of basic and clinical sciences, and help students of diverse backgrounds be ready for what follows.
- Integrated disease/system-based units will then be taught instead of traditional “course-based” disciplines. Physical diagnosis skills will be matched to the contents of these science units.

- Teaching methods will include lectures, small group case-based discussions, and self-directed learning.
- Simulation and actual clinical experience with real patients will be closely linked to class material; for instance you will learn to examine the knee and ankle of real patients while studying the lower extremity through dissection of a cadaver.
- Units will be taught by both clinicians and scientists and will be linked to scientific presentations and exercises such as laboratories and real-world activities.
- All units of instruction will have clinical, case-based themes and utilize concurrent methods such as case discussions, simulations and hospital/clinical activities.

➤ **Clerkship Period (9 rotations over the next 12 months)**

- Rotations will be in inpatient medicine, outpatient medicine, psychiatry, pediatrics, family medicine, general surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, subspecialty surgery, and an elective block that may include neurology or emergency medicine.
- Rotations will be chosen at military teaching hospitals and medical facilities around the U.S. This is our long-standing practice, one that allows for training in the context of eventual practice.
- Several rotations will be grouped in blocks at a single geographic site to allow you continuity in patient follow-up and faculty mentoring, assessment and feedback; we expect that at least one four-month block will be at a clinical site of the student's choice.
- Clinical and basic science topics will be presented as "threads" throughout the clerkships to foster continuity of themes across clerkships at the same site. Dedicated seminars will be held on the topics of patient safety, electronic health records, patient and family communication, nutrition, clinical and translational research, cultural competency, and medical humanities.
- The latest training will be provided through the use of technology in such areas as simulation and medical imaging.

➤ **Post Clerkship Period (last 17 months)**

This faculty-mentored and student-tailored period will begin with a return to the formal study of basic science mid-way in your third year, along with

dedicated preparation time for USMLE. This unit of advanced didactics in basic sciences will be presented in a case-based context and will be enriched by the students' clerkship experiences and exposure to patients and clinical problems.

- The Bushmaster advanced field-training exercise will continue to give students practice in teamwork, triage, and resuscitation.
- The post-clerkship phase will include ample time for sub-internships and electives and will continue to emphasize patient-centered requirements.
- This period will include a "capstone project" (senior thesis), an in-depth period of discovery to cultivate unique student interests.

We hope you share our excitement about the new curriculum, and we look forward to receiving your application. Our website is updated on a regular basis with the latest information on classes and scheduling under the new program. Please bookmark the site and check back for the most current information:

<http://www.usuhs.mil/curriculumreform/index.html>

If you have any further questions about the application procedure, please contact our Admissions Office: admissions@usuhs.mil



Larry W. Laughlin, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean, School of Medicine